

# GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 64, No. 14

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

April 8, 2005

## In brief

### Deadline for taxes April 15

Only one week left until taxes are due. The Tyndall Tax Center is available to help by appointment only. The center is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday - Thursday, and is located in Bldg. 662, Room 170. To schedule an appointment, call 283-9192.

## What's inside



Children honored during Month of Military Child ... **PAGES 12-13**



Tyndall Airman picked up for Tops in Blue ... **PAGE 17**

### The ORI is coming ...



... **72 days and counting**

## Services three-peats as AETC Eubank winners

**1ST LT. ALBERT BOSCO**

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

For an unprecedented third straight year for Tyndall AFB, the 325th Services Squadron has swept the competition for the coveted Maj. Gen. Eugene L. Eubank award in the best small unit category.

The award recognizes the Air Force's best overall small unit morale welfare and recreation program.

Evaluators look at services squadrons around the Air Force, visiting each facility to learn about what they are doing, what services are offered and what programs or projects are planned for the future.

Winning the award at the command level, the squadron will now face winners from other commands for Air Force-level honors.

"This award is truly an award for the entire Tyndall community," said Lt. Col. Marc Piccolo, 325th SVS commander. "The services squadron supports Team Tyndall. Every Airman, civilian employee, contractor, student and family member is our customer, and they have a lot to do with our success. Services has great people, and the support we get from the rest of the base and leadership enables us to perform at a consistently high level."

The award is welcome news not only for Colonel Piccolo and his troops, but the 325th Mission Support Group as well.

"We try to provide the best support possible to all of Team Tyndall across the spectrum of services offered by the group, and winning this award illustrates our commitment to do just that," said Col. Martin Sayles, 325th MSG commander.

Colonel Sayles added he is proud



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

**Shania Banks, front, strums the guitar as Haillie Lahnum, left, Sofia Rodgers, Tyler Faulds, Sofia Newman, Aine Majors and Samantha Mulders join in Monday at the Youth Center. Ms. Rodgers and Ms. Newman are school-age program assistants at the Youth Center, which is part of the 325th Services Squadron. The squadron recently won the 2005 Air Education and Training Command Services Outstanding Unit Award, Small Category.**

of the men and women assigned to the squadron for their continuing efforts to make the squadron, group and Team Tyndall shine.

"I'm amazed at what our people are accomplishing on a daily basis," he said. "It's a tough job to provide the level of customer service seen throughout all of our services facilities, but these folks are doing it everyday, with perfection, and I couldn't be happier for their achievements."

The squadron is charged with running dozens of facilities and programs at Tyndall including the Berg-Liles Dining Facility, Child Development Center, Youth Center and

Outdoor Recreation Complex, to name a few. Maintaining the squadron's high standards may seem like a daunting task, but the services folks take great pride in providing the best services available to Tyndall people, something that is evident in their accomplishments.

In fact, according to the award package, some of their noted accomplishments include deploying 92 percent of the squadron to support contingency operations overseas.

While deployed, services members brought a little of the good life to more than 5,000 desert warfighters by opening a 2,000 square foot pool, 9,000 square foot

dining facility and a mini fitness center. Additionally, the squadron was credited for developing a lodging and food evacuation plan, allowing them to relocate more than 1,800 U.S. and coalition forces within 24 hours.

But the squadron's accomplishments don't stop there. In fact the squadron's support was pivotal during Hurricane Ivan, which struck Tyndall in September 2004. The squadron provided food and lodging support for more than 200 evacuees and served as the regional National Guard liaison for relief efforts, providing food and lodging.

● **SEE SERVICES PAGE 7**



# Leadership, core values provoke positive change

**LT. COL. HAROLD HUGULEY**  
325th Mission Support Squadron commander

I want to share a few thoughts that will enable us all to be a more effective and cohesive unit. Specifically, I want to talk about leadership, our Air Force core values and positive change.

The single most important factor for the success of Team Tyndall depends on the leadership exhibited by all of us. We equally need positive, proactive engagement across the board from all enlisted members, officers and civilian workers. We can not afford a “weak link.” We must all work together, or we will all fail.

Leadership must be exhibited across our staff. We need everyone’s leadership to facilitate the development of synergy and productivity throughout our base. As Air Force Chief of Staff General John Jumper said, we are one team, one force and one family. We all must put forth the effort to make it happen.

The leadership we demonstrate must incorporate a strong sense of values. Our Air Force core values must remain high in our actions – Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do.

In performing our Air Force duties, we need

to constantly look in the mirror. We need to examine ourselves to make sure our values are in line with those on which the Air Force has placed great emphasis.

We are entrusted to carry the torch for honesty, integrity and loyalty, and we should expect nothing less from our people. We shall never lie, steal or cheat, nor shall we tolerate anyone who does. As a rule of thumb, if you’re in a situation and can feel the hair standing up on the back of your neck, that’s usually a good indication that something is wrong. We need everyone to make the right call, and do the right thing.

With our integrity in check, we can do our job. Sometimes that means giving a little more to our jobs than we’re used to, but that’s “Service Before Self.” We may be required to come in to work early, work late, deploy or even take a remote assignment. But that’s who we are, and that’s what makes our Air

Force so great. While Service Before Self means doing whatever it takes to accomplish the mission, part of that also includes taking care of our people. The balance of mission accomplishment versus nurturing people is a double-edged sword and will largely depend on the level and scope of the issue.

The same holds true for taking care of our people. This means making sure performance reports are on time, instituting a recognition program, allowing professional development, such as advanced training or professional military education, and supporting family issues. Although extenuating circumstances may arise such as a safety mishap or family tragedy, both mission and people are a priority. We need and must do both to be a successful.

In performing our job, we should reach for “Excellence in All We Do.” The many tasks we accomplish are viewed by our major command and base leadership. As such, we need

to think like our generals and chiefs to ensure the output we generate meets their standards. Attention to detail is required to maintain our credibility as a viable quality source for Air Dominance. Our people are always striving to give that extra effort because we know the difference between “ordinary” and “extraordinary” is that little extra.

Finally, we need to institute positive change. We should not make changes for the sake of change; however, as we progress over time, some things will change to improve our capabilities and functions. We must always be prepared for positive change. Success means adjusting to changing demands and developing the skills necessary to deal with our changing culture. We need everyone to be flexible and adaptable, and we need everyone to encourage innovation and creativity. This is what makes us positive change agents.

Theodore Roosevelt said, “It not so important what a man is, but what he is becoming. For what he is becoming is what he shall be.” For us, it not so important what our organization is today, but what our organization is becoming and for what is becoming is what we will be...the world’s leader in Air Dominance training and support!

## Mentorship, training essential to mission, inspection success

**COL. DAWN WHEELER**  
United States Air Forces Europe inspector general

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFPN)** — At a fighter base back in the 1980s, we got goal days based on the number of sorties each aircraft flew every month. Known as utilization, or UTE, days, people were given the day off if the wing did well.

One day, the wing commander came to a staff meeting and told us a story of a young captain who had come to see him to complain.

The captain didn’t think the wing finance office should be closed on a UTE day; since finance members had nothing to do with the aircrews getting their day off, he felt it was unfair. The commander agreed to look into the matter and invited the captain to the weekly staff meeting.

During the meeting, the commander began going around the room asking questions. “Would you be as eager to fly if finance didn’t see to it that you were paid?” he asked the captain.

Calmly, the commander went completely around the room asking simple but penetrating questions as he mentored us that day, letting us know that it takes everyone, from the Airman on the flightline to the commander’s support staff to keep the mission going. And, it takes each of our core capabilities to accomplish that mission.

As the inspector general team travels around, I am constantly struck by the motivation, enthusiasm and dedication of the troops. What we find lacking is training. Not the just-in-time training to get specific jobs done, to deploy, or engage in combat, but, rather, the core capabilities training to be able to perform their primary jobs to the best of their ability.

A wing commander recently told me that having to take the time to get back to basics had actually been good for the unit. He said the troops walked taller and approached life with more confidence than he’d seen in a long time.

I have always concurred with the theory that when you “sweat more in peace, you bleed less in war,” and we accom-

plish that by providing quality in-depth training and proper equipment to our troops.

While much of what we do is determined by the day-to-day operations tempo, we need to take time out periodically to get back to basics.

Troops, drag a chief out for a cup of coffee and pick his or her brain about something you remember from technical school but have never actually performed.

Chiefs and senior non-commissioned officers, have a “troop call” at the end of a busy week, and talk to your people about some perhaps-forgotten technical aspect of your job. Small informal get-togethers are a perfect time to impart information long unused, brainstorm new initiatives and recall and dissect recent incidents that could have gone better with a bit more preplanning.

Our Airmen are without a doubt the world’s finest, and we owe them the mentorship and training needed to hone their skills.

**Gulf Defender Editorial Staff**

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Capt. Susan A. Romano .....	chief, 325th FW public affairs
1st Lt. Albert Bosco .....	chief, internal information
2nd Lt. William Powell .....	deputy chief, internal information
Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek .....	editor

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# Law protects homes from creditors when deployed

GERRY J. GILMORE  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — Federal law prohibits mortgage lenders from immediately foreclosing on homes owned by servicemembers deployed overseas on military duty, a senior legal officer said here.

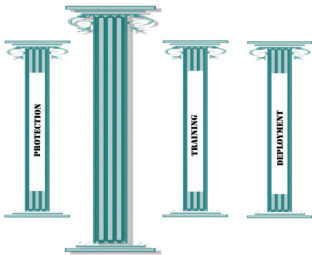
All servicemembers, including those deployed, are protected under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, signed by President Bush on Dec. 19, 2003, said Army Col. Christopher Garcia, director of legal policy for the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

“The (Act) includes a provision that protects against default judgment,” Colonel Garcia said. “In any civil action, such as a lawsuit or a foreclosure, in which the defendant does not make an appearance, the court must require the plaintiff bringing the suit to file an affidavit saying whether or not the other party in the lawsuit is a servicemember.”

If the party being sued for foreclosure or some other debt action is a servicemember, he said, the Act “requires the judge to do certain things to protect the servicemember’s rights.”

For example, the courts are required to stay the court proceedings for a minimum of 90 days until the servicemember can be present to assert a defense, he said. Most often, such court cases are delayed until the servicemember has completed his or her overseas deployment.

## FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Colonel Garcia said he had no specific information regarding recent news reports saying some deployed servicemembers have had their homes foreclosed on or had other assets seized in contradiction to the law.

Business-community compliance with the Act “generally has been very good,” Colonel Garcia said. Yet, he acknowledged, there have been “isolated cases of noncompliance.” This usually occurs “when a lender, or landlord, or other person dealing with a servicemember is unaware of the law,” he said.

After lenders and other creditors become aware of the law, they usually comply with it, Colonel Garcia said.

Activated Reserve and Guard servicemembers and those on active duty and their family members can contact their local military legal assistance officers to assist them in enforcing their rights, Colonel Garcia said.

A legal assistance attorney can “draft a letter or make a phone call,” he said. If the creditor refuses to comply with the Act, either the servicemember can sue privately, or the Department of Justice can bring an enforcement action in federal court.

The Act is an update to the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act of 1940, which was established to provide protections to deployed troops who have difficulty meeting their personal financial and legal obligations because of to their military service.

## ON THE STREET

### 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Focus What’s the best part of working in the debrief section?



“Watching the pilots progress and seeing what good instructor pilots we have here at Tyndall.”

**SENIOR AIRMAN NINA BUTLER**  
325th AMXS



“The experience. The fact that you learn different things on each job you do.”

**SENIOR AIRMAN DANA McDERMOTT**  
325th AMXS



“I like working in a place where everybody knows your name.”

**STAFF SGT. TIM CRAWFORD**  
325th AMXS



“The different aspects of the job: safety, training, debrief. We’re always doing something different.”

**MASTER SGT. HAROLD COATES**  
325th AMXS

### Action Line Call 283-2255



**BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON**  
325th Fighter Wing commander

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you’re not satisfied with the response or

you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General’s Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

<b>Commissary</b>	283-4825
<b>Pass and I.D.</b>	283-4191
<b>Medical and Dental</b>	283-7515
<b>MEO</b>	283-2739

<b>MPF</b>	283-2276
<b>SFS Desk Sgt.</b>	283-2254
<b>Services</b>	283-2501
<b>Legal</b>	283-4681
<b>Housing</b>	283-2036
<b>CDC</b>	283-4747
<b>Wing Safety</b>	283-4231
<b>Area Defense Counsel</b>	283-2911
<b>Finance</b>	283-4117
<b>Civil Engineer</b>	283-4949
<b>Civilian Personnel</b>	283-3203
<b>Base Information</b>	283-1113

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.



# Tyndall’s oldest employee bids farwell, retires at 83

**2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL**  
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tyndall’s oldest employee retired March 30 after spending a lifetime dedicated to service. Affectionately known as “Sarge,” 83-year-old Wilkes Wright, the sole installation litter patrol groundskeeper, said goodbye to his friends and co-workers and welcomed his overdue future of relaxation. “I believe the Lord meant for me to work this late in my life because I’ve remained pretty healthy,” he said. Sarge began working at 14 for his grandfather and hasn’t stopped since. He spent more than 30 years in the military, be-

ginning in the Army Air Corps as a flight engineer, and ultimately serving through three wars: World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. For the last four years, he has been in charge of the base appearance here, which is an important, high-visibility job, said Johnny Walker, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron grounds supervisor. “Ensuring the base is free of trash and litter is an extremely important job because the land is the first thing people see when they arrive on base,” Mr. Walker said. “I could always count on him to keep the beaches, base housing and the

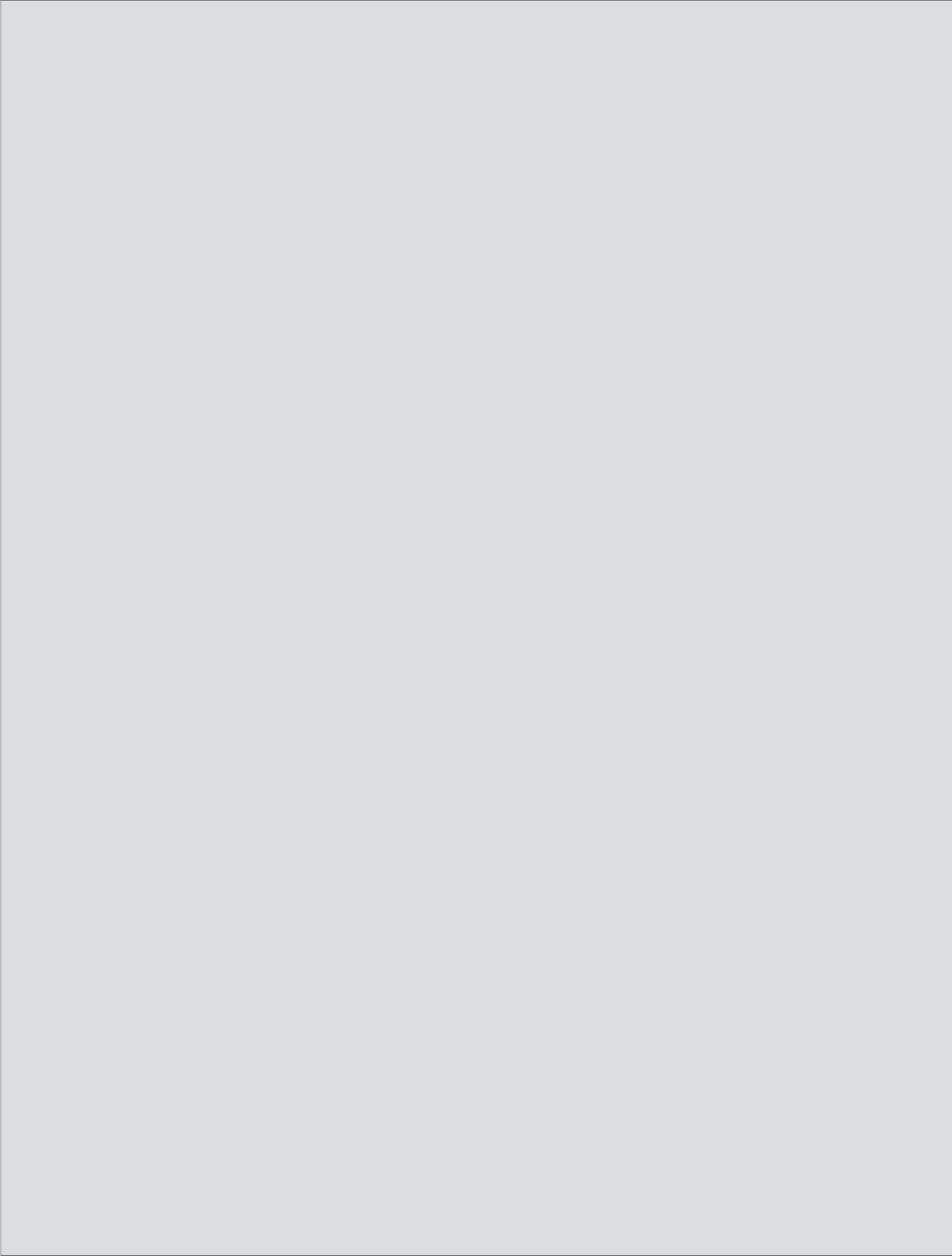
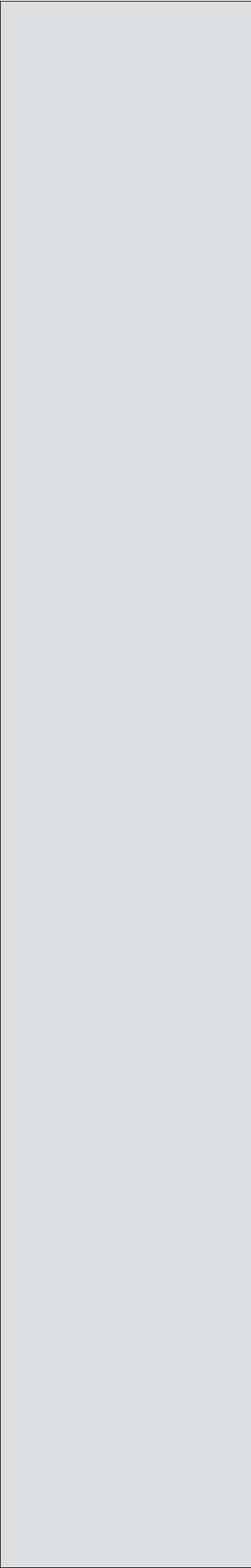
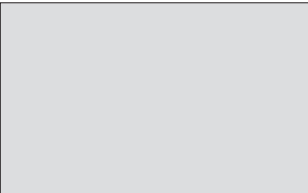
rest of Tyndall clean and litter free. I’ll have to hire at least two guys to do the same work he did alone.” Despite his newfound freedom from work, Sarge admits he isn’t ready for the rocking chair. “You won’t catch me doing nothing,” he said. “I may even get a part-time job, but my wife has been doing a good job keeping me busy at home already.” Sarge said he looks forward to spending more time outdoors, but this time not picking up litter. “I’m going to miss you all, but when those (fish) start biting, I might forget all about you.”



2nd Lt. William Powell

**Eighty-three-year-old “Sarge,” Tyndall’s sole litter patrol groundskeeper and oldest employee, looks at his new bronze eagle he received at his retirement ceremony March 30.**





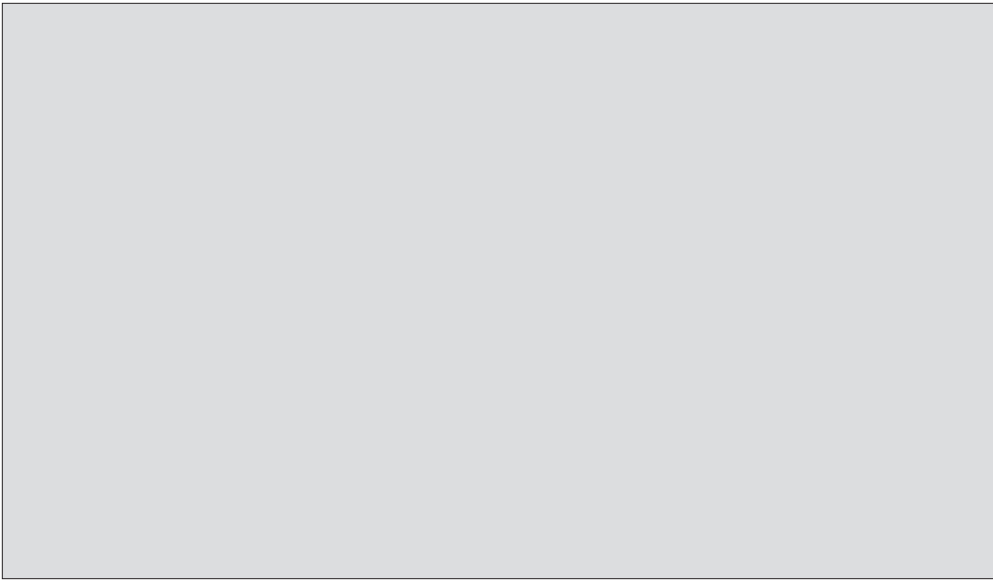
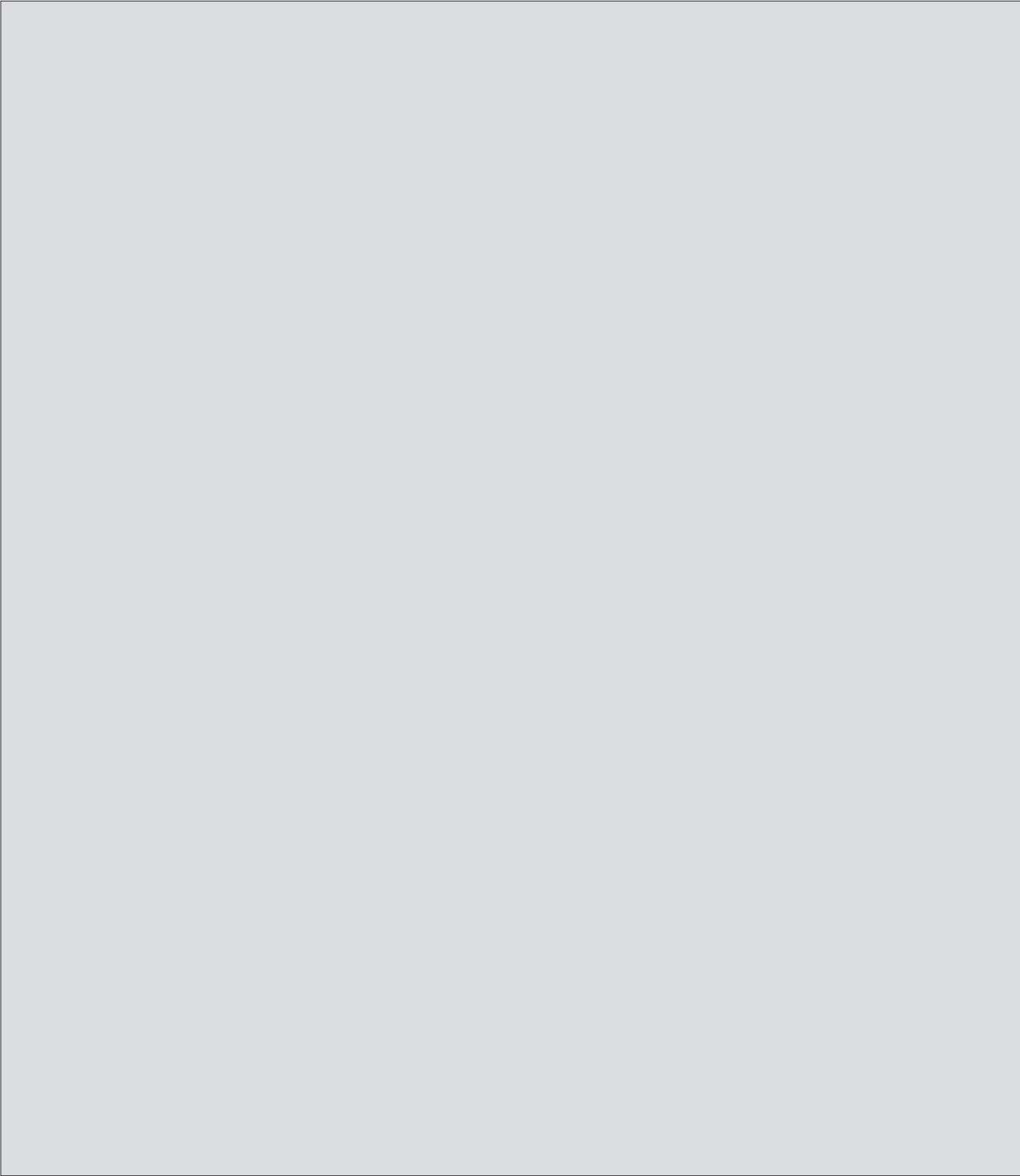
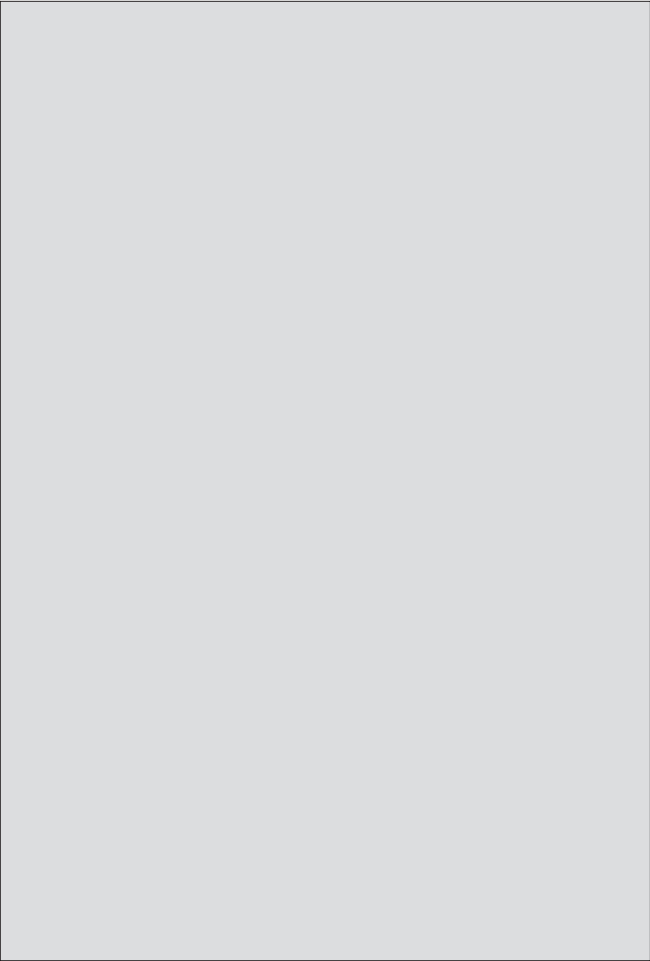
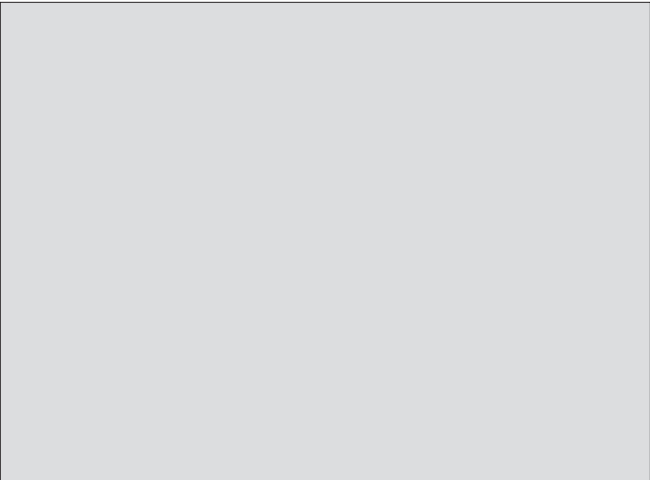
# AETC approved GWOT medal for all members

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS)** — Airmen assigned to Air Education and Training Command on or after Sept. 11, 2001, have been awarded the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Initial award of the medal was limited to airport security operations from Sept. 27, 2001 to May 31, 2003, and soldiers who supported Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, according to AETC personnel officials here.

Now Airmen assigned to AETC on active duty are authorized the GWOT Service Medal. Reserve and Guard Airmen and soldiers activated on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and who served for 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days in AETC are also awarded the medal.

An end date has yet to be determined. For more information about eligibility, call the local military personnel flight.





● **FROM SERVICES PAGE 1**

While the squadron’s accomplishments both overseas and at home during contingencies are impressive, equally stunning was their ability to sustain, and in many cases increase, myriad activities at Tyndall throughout 2004.

Some examples include leading the Air Force’s only “Start Smart 5-Star Program” and being selected to run a youth football pilot program. Also, nearly all of the squadron’s facilities showed an increase

in participation and revenue throughout the year, something Colonel Piccolo attributes to the dedication of the men and women assigned to the squadron.

“The folks assigned to the squadron worked hard and made steady improvements to our programs and activities throughout the year,” he said. “I think the Air Education and Training Command evaluators recognized that.”

Those improvements led to the squadron winning the award, which comes with

more than just recognition. In fact, according to Colonel Piccolo, the squadron will receive funds from AETC to help prepare for the Air Force-level evaluation sometime in May or early June.

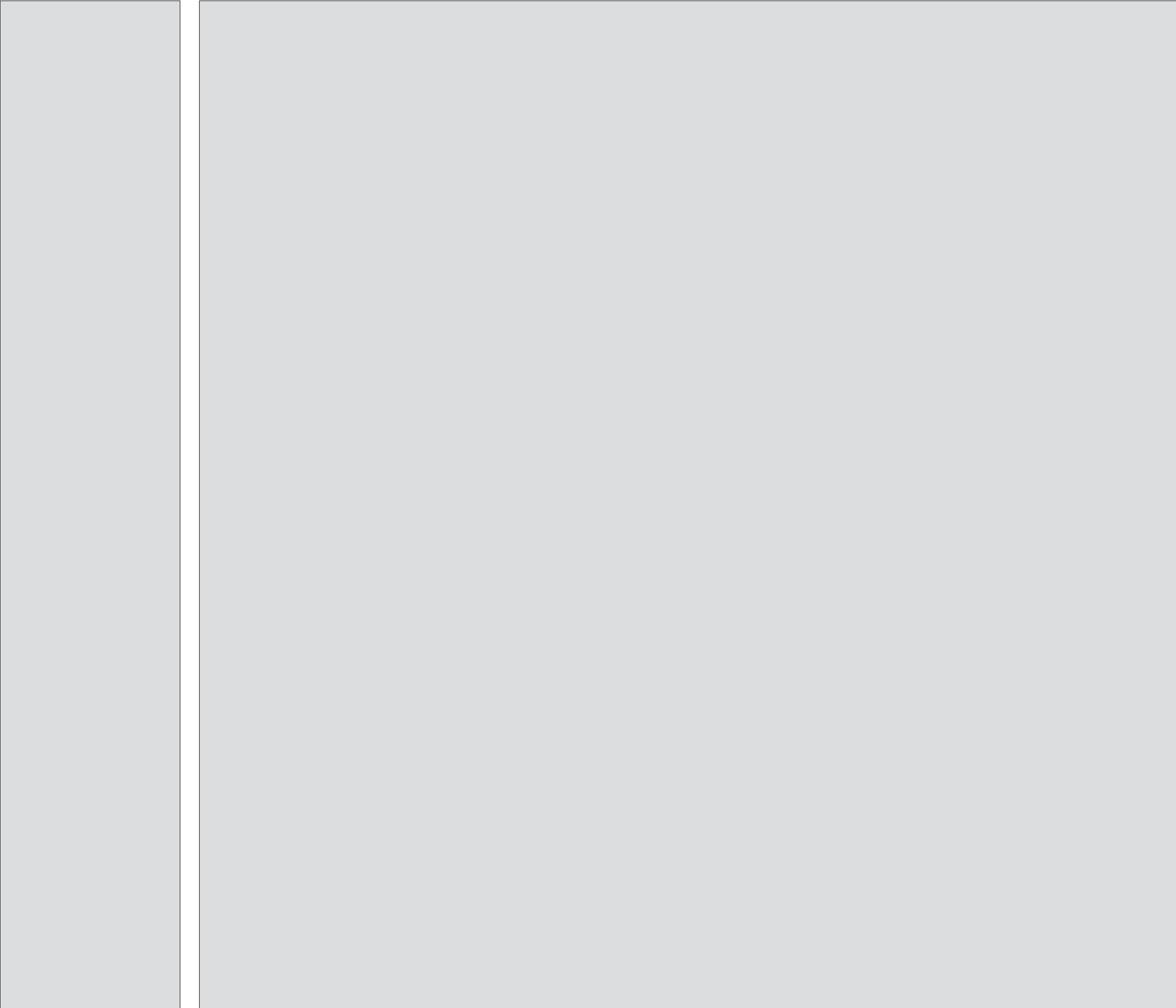
“The additional money is great because we’ll turn that right back into our programs and facilities so we’re able to make things better for everyone,” Colonel Piccolo said.

The colonel added the squadron will be touching up and fine-tuning many of the squadron’s facilities and programs,

including undertaking several self-help projects.

When the Air Force evaluation team arrives, the squadron will be ready, Colonel Piccolo said, and he has no doubt Tyndall will do well, but realizes the squadron alone won’t win the award.

“We’re in it to win it,” he said. “We can compete with anyone, but what will bring this prestigious award home to Team Tyndall is a show of enthusiasm from the entire community, on base and off.”



# Child abuse prevention tips:

## Seven small ways to stop one big problem

The next time everyday pressures of parenting build up to the point where you feel like lashing out–STOP! Here’s what you can do instead.

1. Take a deep breath. And another, then remember you are the adult.
2. Close your eyes and imagine you’re hearing what your child is about to hear from you.
3. Press your lips together and count to 10 or even 20.
4. Phone a friend.
5. If someone can watch the children, go outside and take a walk.
6. If you feel out of control, remove yourself from the situation until you regain control.
7. Keep in mind that children will model what they see.

Children are very impressionable and it is our responsibility as adults to make sure we are providing them with the most positive environment possible. We must all do our part to put a stop to child abuse.

Hurt lasts a lifetime. Every child matters. Every person helps.  
For more information on what you can do to prevent child abuse, contact the Family Advocacy Program at 283-7511.

# NCO Academy graduates

Congratulations all technical sergeants!

**Distinguished graduate**  
James Gilmore, 325th Maintenance Squadron

- George Palasciano, 325th Maintenance Operations Squadron
- Mark Boyd, 325th Security Forces Squadron
- Stuart Smith, 372nd Training Squadron/Detachment 4
- James Cassidy, 1st Fighter Squadron
- Jeffrey Benison, 325th Air Control Squadron
- Stephen Bernat, 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Chad Landt, 325th AMXS
- Marvin Lewis, 325th Fighter Wing
- Gary O’Brien, 325th Maintenance Group
- Matthew Rodrigues, 325th MXG
- Charles Anderson, 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron
- David Martin, 83rd FWS
- Lonnie Beaver, 325th AMXS
- Rex Barrentine, Southeast Air Defense Sector





# Tyndall Airman becomes America's newest citizen

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A revolt, a family separated and a little girl who grew up to become a defender of freedom in a foreign land.

It may sound like a big-budget Hollywood flick, but for one Tyndall Airman, this is real life.

Celene Delice, an Airman with the 325th Mission Support Squadron, was born in Bainet, Haiti, Aug. 26, 1982. She was just two years old when the dynastic rule of the Duvaliers was coming to a close. The people were revolting against President Jean-Claude Duvalier's corrupt dealings and political repression. Airman Delice's father, a captain in the Haitian army, and mother, a clothing factory employee, decided it was time to leave.

"My mother got a visa and came to Florida," said Airman Delice. "My father stayed in Haiti a couple of more weeks to retire from the service, and then he joined my mother."

The Delices wanted to get all six of their children, two boys and four girls, out of Haiti together, she said, but they knew it would take some time. Therefore, they sent their three youngest children, including Celene, to Le Village, a boarding school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. "The school was run by Germans," she said. "We were not affected by the outside. On campus, we had houses, a school, a hospital and a church. It was a better way to get an education."

The three older children were sent to live with relatives and friends of the family, said Airman Delice. Her oldest sister would come to visit, often bringing audio tapes their mother had sent to keep in touch with the children.

"Visiting hours were on Sundays," said Airman Delice. "My oldest sister would bring the tape and we would listen to it. We would record our voices and send it back. That's how we communicated."

Fifteen years passed, with their mother coming to visit three times, she said. Celene, the youngest, was 17 years old and the oldest sibling was 28, when their parents were finally able to file with immigration to bring their children to the United States. The family was to be together again, but for Celene she was going to one family and leaving another.

"The funny thing is that after living there in the board-

ing school for so long, my family was the people I lived with," said Airman Delice. "We were like a family, even though we were not blood related."

"When I came (to Florida) I was trying to get to know my real parents," she continued. "I know they sacrificed a lot for us to come here, and it's great to finally be with them. But it felt like I was losing my family at the same time."

Even though it was hard leaving, high school graduate Celene decided to make the best of it and go to college.

She applied for and was accepted at Nova Southeastern University, a private college in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The \$21,000 per year price tag began to hurt, she said, and she had to take student loans.

However, that all ended with her father's injury and a business closure.

"My father was installing a (skylight), and he fell from the top of the building," said Airman Delice. "He broke a bone in his back."

Her mother lost her job at a men's clothing store when the business shut down, she said.

"My parents were unable to cosign with me on student loans, because they were both out of work," said Airman Delice.

She had to leave school, but one day, while surfing the Internet, Celene came across a military recruitment advertisement that told of the benefits of joining the service.

"I thought, 'Well, I don't have anything to lose,'" she said. "I wanted to go to school and they had those benefits."

Celene finally became Airman Delice when she joined the Air Force in early 2004. She completed basic training and is now stationed here as a relocations technician.

It wasn't until March 31 that she became a U.S. citizen. She attended a military ceremony at Jacksonville Naval Air Station, Fla., and swore in with 125 other military members, including Soldiers and Sailors.

"I am very excited to have become a citizen," she said. "Now I can vote and enjoy all the benefits of being a citizen."

One of those benefits is being able to become a



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

**Airman 1st Class Celene Delice, 325th Mission Support Squadron relocations technician, and her supervisor, Staff Sgt. Steven Smith, go over PCS paperwork Tuesday at the Relocations Office. Airman Delice became a United States citizen March 31.**

career officer in the Air Force.

Airman Delice said her next goal is to finish her bachelor's degree and get commissioned. Once she is an officer, she plans to apply for the Funded Legal Education Program.

"My long-term goal is to become an Air Force lawyer," said Airman Delice, a 22-year-old woman who has already seen much in this world. "I want to help people. I want to make some changes."



## ORI TIP OF THE WEEK

### Week 10:

**Make sure personnel are documenting all safety inspections and weekly briefings. Ensure office personnel know their governing regulations. Now is the time to check recall rosters. Make sure they are up to date.**

**Did you miss past issues of the Gulf Defender? Don't fret!**

**We're online:**  
**[www.tyndall.af.mil/News/news.htm](http://www.tyndall.af.mil/News/news.htm)**





# Town hall meeting discusses housing privatization

**STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK**  
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

More than 100 Airmen attended a town hall meeting at the Youth Center here Tuesday night to discuss issues surrounding Tyndall's housing privatization project.

According to Yvonne Brabham, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron housing flight chief, the meeting also covered items specific to base housing, such as yard inspections, security concerns and energy conservation.

Different squadron representatives were on hand to address issues housing residents had, she said. Lt. Col. Curt Van De Walle, 325th CES commander, discussed home repairs and issues with mold, and Major Franklin Howard, 325th Security Forces Squadron commander, addressed speeding and parking violations on base housing roads.

While the meeting was open to all military members, the focus was on the housing residents, she said, trying to make their lives and homes better.

"(We discussed) the horticulture workshop," said Ms. Brabham, "which will give residents an overview on lawn care and maintenance."

The workshop, she said, will teach residents how to take care of their lawn at a minimal cost, with just an investment in time and effort.

The meeting also covered pet control, including rules on pets in base housing and information on who to call to report stray animals.

But the main focus of the meeting was housing privatization.

"We're within eight to 10 months of awarding a contract," she said. "We need to make people comfortable with

the transition from civilian management to a contractor."

Glenn Lattanze, 325th CES housing privatization project manager, was on hand at the meeting to discuss privatization issues.

The goal of privatization is to allow military members to live in homes that are equal to or better than what the local economy has to offer, said Mr. Lattanze.

"If you can get a better home downtown, you'll do it," he said. "The contractors must keep up to par with housing downtown."

He added the new homes must be of equal quality to those of the homes in the Felix Lake or Red Fish Point housing areas on base.

The Air Education and Training Command's Group I Housing Privatization Acquisition Support Team will also be

looking for contractors who offer some 'desired features.'

According to Mr. Lattanze, some of the desired features for the community include a swimming pool, covered bus stops, mini-storage warehouse and jogging trail around the entire community. Desired features for the homes include screened-in patios, walk-in clothes closets, programmable thermostats and three-bedroom units in lieu of two bedroom units.

"We are asking for, but may not get, some of these features," said Mr. Lattanze. "But other bases with privatized housing have got at least 95 percent of them."

"It's going to be a good thing for the Air Force and the housing residents," he said. "The end result will be nice houses for Tyndall that they'll be proud to live in."

One base housing resident

voiced his concern over moving costs. Specifically, he wanted to know who will pay for his family to move if a contractor decides to begin the project by tearing down homes.

"Either the government or the contractor will take care of the moving costs," answered Colonel Van De Walle. "You shouldn't have to pay for an involuntary move."

The question-and-answer session after the meeting helped quell some of the base residents' fears.

Staff Sgt. Chad Yeager, 325th Services Squadron fitness specialist, said that he learned much about privatization during the meeting.

"Privatization will bring more of a family atmosphere to base housing," said Sergeant Yeager. "(It) can only be thought of as a good thing."

## Checkertail Salute

Master Sgt. Lois Methlie



Steve Wallace

**Sergeant Methlie receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.**

The Checkertail Clan salutes Sergeant Methlie, who is a 325th Maintenance Group quality assurance evaluator. She is the QA flight's lead Integrated Maintenance Information System representative, verifying and approving more than 43 local work packages. Sergeant Methlie ensured all the data reached and maintained 100 percent accuracy.

**Duty title:** Quality assurance evaluator

**Time on station:** Eleven years

**Hometown:** Argyle, N.Y.

**Hobbies:** Karate, painting, riding dirt bikes, family

**Goals:** Be a strong mentor for younger Airmen

**Favorite movie:** "On Golden Pond"

**Favorite book:** Anything from Edgar Allan Poe

**Favorite thing about Tyndall:** The people and the feeling of family

**Pet peeves:** People who drive slow in the fast lane

**Proudest moment in the military:** The first time re-enlisting with my husband present

*The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.*

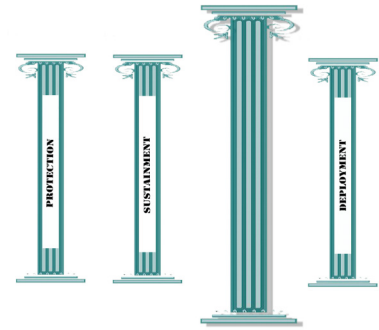
**The Gulf Defender is published for people like Staff Sgt. Tim Minkler, 325th Operations Support Squadron weather forecaster.**



**SAFETY FIRST**




FORCE TRAINING



Training Spotlight

What has been the highlight of your crew chief training here?

“At Sheppard AFB, Texas, we worked hard in the classroom with paperwork, but here we get to see jets that actually fly.”



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS  
J.R. PABON  
372nd Training Squadron/ Detachment 4  
Mission Ready Airmen student

# In Tyndall’s RAPCON, it’s all about control

1st Lt. ALBERT BOSCO  
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tyndall Air Force Base is renowned for its F-15 Eagle and F/A-22 Raptor pilot training and air battle manager training, but a lesser-known and equally important training mission also takes place here – radar approach control training.

You won’t find students in this career field sitting in a well-lit classroom or listening to an instructor discuss the finer points of the job. Instead, students crowd into a small, dark room on the Tyndall flightline and stare at bright green dots on a computer screen.

Assigned to the 325th Operations Support Squadron, officer and enlisted trainees spend about 10 months and up to two years, respectively, pouring through data, learning radio communication procedures and learning everything there is to know about airspace, or specifically, how to get airplanes in and out of it.

The training is rigorous, and students have to gain full knowledge of their responsibilities before they can move from the classroom to the “floor” located just outside their door.

“The first 90 days of training is done strictly in the simulator before we’ll even consider letting the students on the floor to talk to aircraft,” said Senior Master Sgt. Scott Enander, RAPCON chief controller. “The idea is to get the students comfortable with procedures before they start talking in a live environment.”

The “floor” is comprised of nine radar



1st Lt. Albert Bosco

Senior Airman Alex Hernandez, right, 325th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, discusses local airspace procedures during a training session in the Radar Approach Control facility here while Airman 1st Class Justin Allee, an apprentice, listens. Enlisted and officer students spend about 90 days in the “RAPCON classroom” learning about their roles and responsibilities as approach controllers and airfield operations officers.

scopes, which provide controllers with a picture of one of 14 sections of airspace assigned to them. Information displayed in the airspace includes call signs of aircraft, altitudes, transponder frequencies, airspeed and their location with respect to the airspace.

While the classroom “radar” scopes may appear to be merely green-tinted computer screens, they are actually simulators that allow students to see and react to situations and scenarios that they are likely to deal with day to day. But, according to Sergeant Enander, the simu-

lators are also powerful training tools that provide students a glimpse of the unexpected.

“The simulators allow us to create scenarios controllers may not see everyday, but need to know about and how to handle them,” Sergeant Enander said.

In order to be fully qualified as a RAPCON controller, enlisted students must complete their 5-level certification, which takes about one year, and be certi-

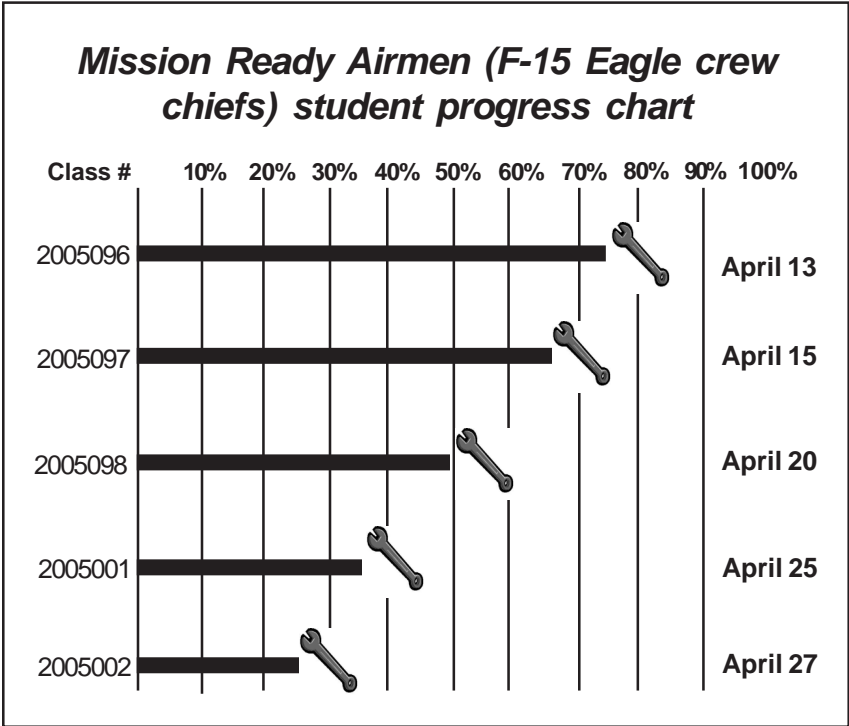
● SEE RAPCON PAGE 22

Giving props

Jimmy Rhodes, left, Air 1st Aviation Companies contract manager and chief pilot, briefs 325th Air Control Squadron air battle manager students about the MU-2, the first aircraft they will learn to control. The students, with Class 0604, began instruction March 30. They are, from left, 2nd Lts. Israel Camacho, James Fowley, Rob Currie, Laura Hall and Shahin Pena-Serrano.



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek





# Month of the military child: Youngest members of military family honored



**2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL**  
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Since 1986, the secretary of defense has designated April as Month of the Military Child for all service branches.

The month is an opportunity to reflect on and recognize the contributions and personal sacrifices children make as the youngest members in the military family.

According to Alma Hooks, Tyndall Youth Center youth programs director, military children deserve recognition just as much as fathers, mothers or presidents because of the many contributions and sacrifices the children make so their parents can fulfill their duty to serve in the armed forces.

"Military children often have to deal

with the absence of one (or more) parent due to deployments or remote assignments," she said.

Marie Pippin, Tyndall Child Development Center director, echoed Ms. Hooks' comments adding most military children live a completely different lifestyle than children with civilian parents, which can bring both advantages and disadvantages.

"Moving frequently, for example, can help children learn to be flexible to change, gain exposure to many different locations and develop social skills," Ms. Pippin said. "On the other hand, children often don't have the support of extended family living close by or the opportunity to grow up with the same circle of friends."

But Ms. Pippin believes the good outweighs the bad.

"The military child has the extraordinary opportunity to meet different people and learn about different cultures and understand diversity better than most," she continued.

"Because of constant relocating, they are resilient, and most make friends easier. All of this is part of their unique education, and they benefit from it."



**Capt. Abdelhameed Macknay, a member of the 325th Fighter Wing, shows a slideshow to children at the Youth Center. The slides show children from his home country to help the children learn more about their home country.**

The military works to provide a unique social and emotional support for its children.



2nd Lt. William Powell

**Above:** Tasianee Brunson waits patiently for a hamburger during the Month of the Military Child cookout held March 26 at the Youth Center. Sheila Schellpfeffer, center, the Child Development Center assistant director, and Jeannie Holland, a program assistant, hand out hotdogs to other hungry children and parents. Tasianee is the daughter of Staff Sgt. Latisha Brunson, 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron.

**Right:** Brittnei Viskochil, daughter of Tech. Sgts. David Viskochil, 325th Maintenance Operation Squadron, and Tammi Viskochil, 1st Fighter Squadron, enjoys playing on the jungle-gym equipment with some friends following the cookout.







Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

the Jordanian Air Force, presents a slideshow contained images of his and other cultures around the world.

to meet the needs of the other parent left behind as much as we can," she said.

military children through organizations such as base youth centers and child development centers, said Ms. Hooks.

"Our job here at the Youth Center is to recognize children's feelings (after a parent is deployed or when they leave friends behind) and help them cope with those feelings, answer ques-

Tyndall's Youth Center and CDC recognize the importance of the military child every day throughout the year, but this month they have established programs and special activities to specifically highlight the month-long celebration.

The CDC is sponsoring a children's parade at 9 a.m. today which officially begins the center's April events.

The Youth Center invites children ages 6-12 to attend their "Loads and Loads of Games" event beginning 6 p.m. tonight. Children will be challenged to play as many games as they can for a three-hour period, and prizes and awards will be given for top scores, participation and the number of games children can play.

The monthly Skate Night at the Youth Center will be from 7-9 p.m. April 15, and will include a few new twists and surprises.

Family Child Care and other Tyndall volunteers will sponsor a booth at KidsFest all day April 16 at Gulf Coast Community College. This is a county-wide event for young children that includes many different activities and fun events for only \$1.

All Tyndall families are invited to attend Movie Night beginning at 7 p.m. April 22 at the Youth Center. The center is breaking in their new 10-foot movie screen for the event. Free popcorn will be provided for those who attend.

The CDC is scheduled to host the annual Month of the Military Child Picnic for children and their families April 29. The event begins with activities for parents and children at 10 a.m., followed by lunch at 11 a.m.

That evening, the Youth Center will culminate the month by serving a spaghetti dinner for parents and children at 6:30 p.m., followed by an entertaining performance by the children at 7:30 p.m. Children can sign up now at the Youth Center to perform in the variety show.

These are just a few of the events scheduled for April to honor the military child. For a more detailed list, contact the CDC at 283-4747, or the Youth Center at 283-4366.



2nd Lt. William Powell

(From left) Amanda Wright, Alicia Arce and Angela Manno learn proper firearm safety techniques from Brenda Lewis-Williams, a Bay County 4-H leader. Ms. Lewis-Williams gave the lesson to more than 20 students at the Tyndall Youth Center March 24. The Youth Center, in partnership with the Bonita Bay Outdoor Recreation Center and the Bay County 4-H Club, will be offering a shooting sports program soon.

## April calendar of events

### Tyndall Youth Center

#### Today

Loads and loads of games, 6 p.m.

Bring old clothes to paint a mural

#### April 12

Make deviled eggs, 5 p.m.

#### April 14

Frisbee bowling, 5 p.m.

#### April 15

Skate Night, 7-9 p.m.

#### April 21

Kickball, 5 p.m.

#### April 22

Movie Night, 7-9 p.m.

#### April 23

Bingo, 3 p.m.

#### April 29

Dinner and a show 6:30 p.m.

### Child Development Center

#### Today

Children's Parade, 9 a.m.

#### April 21

Bring a stuffed animal day

#### April 29

Picnic, 10 a.m. to noon

#### Other

#### April 16

Kidsfest at the Gulf Coast Community College, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### April 16

Home Alone class at the Community Center, 1:30 p.m.



2nd Lt. William Powell





## Briefs

**RAO volunteers**

The Retiree Activities Office is seeking volunteers to assist with the various tasks associated with running the office. The RAO is an all-volunteer organization that provides assistance and information to Tyndall's retiree community on retiree-related issues. Those interested in volunteering should contact the office at 283-2737 or by e-mail at tyndall.RAO@tyndall.af.mil.

**Gulf Coast Community College**

Schedules for summer and fall will be available Monday. Tyndall registration for summer and fall will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday. Also, GCCC will be holding Microsoft classes. The Intro to Access course is from 8 – 11 a.m. April 18 – 21. The Excel Basic course is from 8 – 11 a.m. May 16 – 20. The cost for the course is \$70 and the cost for the books is \$22.50. For more information, call 283-4332.

**Moms, Pops and Tots**

The Tyndall Community Center is offering Powerful Parenting for Moms and Pops of Tots each Wednesday from 9 – 10:30 a.m. Bring your ideas on how we can make this a fun, exciting and educational experience for all. For more information, contact Laurie Campbell at 286-6501 or e-mail znory7@yahoo.com.

**Air National Guard opportunities**

The 109th Airlift Wing, in Scotia, N.Y., home of the C-130 ski-birds, has Traditional Guard vacancies available. For more information, contact Master Sgt. James Reeves, at DSN 344-2457 or 1-800-524-5070, or by e-mail at James.Reeves@nyscot.ang.af.mil.

**Palace Chase Force Shaping**

With the Air Force close to reaching their desired number of separatees, the force shaping program will soon be coming to a close. Members who are thinking about leaving active duty early can transfer their commitment into the Air Force Reserve without having to payback bonuses, and while maintaining many of the same benefits. There are Air Force Reserve opportunities available in many locations in the U.S. and overseas. Re-training into a different career field is also an option. For more information, please contact Master Sgt. Randi Baum at 283-8384, or by e-mail at randi.baum@tyndall.af.mil, or visit the military personnel flight, Bldg. 662, Room 222.

**Volunteers needed**

The Tyndall Volunteer Resource Program serves as the central base resource for volunteer recruitment, placement and recognition. The program assists individuals seeking volunteer opportunities to meet their volunteer

**A wheel good time**

**Devan Johnston, son of Staff Sgt. Edgar Castillo, 823 RED HORSE Squadron/ Detachment 1, heads down the ramp at the skate park near the Youth Center Tuesday here. The park has an assortment of ramps, rails and other obstacles on which young skaters can hone their skills.**



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

goals and authorized organizations and agencies to recruit qualified volunteers. Volunteers are currently needed at Family Services/ Airman's Attic, the Red Cross, Retiree Activities Office, 325th Services Squadron and other locations at Tyndall. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 283-4204/4205.

**Manpower personnel needed**

The Air Force Manpower and Organization Career Field is seeking qualified enlisted personnel, in the pay grades of E4 and E5, to re-train into the manpower career field, AFSC 3S3X1. If this is a career you are interested in, please contact Tech. Sgt. Robert Stegemeyer, Manpower and Organization Flight NCO-in-charge, at 283-8277 for a personal interview.

**Tricare benefits briefing**

The 325th Medical Group will present a Tricare health benefits briefing from 6:30 – 9 p.m. April 21 at the NCO Academy. The information is designed to help spouses and dependents understand their healthcare benefits. Parking is available across from the academy near Burger King. For more information, contact Jim Blanchard at 283-7157 or Donna Dickerson at 286-5484.

**Tricare news**

The Tricare Management Activity has contracted with Westat Incorporated, a survey research firm in the Washington, D.C. area, to conduct a nationwide telephone survey of Tricare beneficiaries on behalf of the Communications and Customer Service Directorate. The survey will gather information about beneficiary Web preferences and will explore findings of a similar February 2004 survey which indicated customers consider Tricare call centers difficult to use.

The survey will be made for approximately six weeks. The study design calls for 10-minute phone interviews with recent Tricare benefit users and will probably require calling approximately 5,000 households.

The Medical Support Squadron assures the legitimacy and importance of this survey, as it will help the DOD and their Humana partners identify and resolve issues with the new Tricare information resources.

**Thrift Shop hours**

Normal hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday – Friday. Consignments are 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday. For more information, call 286-5888.

**Free pre-Kindergarden screening**

Bay District Schools and the Florida Diagnostic Learning Resources Systems/Panhandle Area Educational Consortium will sponsor free Pre-K screenings for three- to four-year-old children April 14 and 28, and May 11. Children will be screened in the areas of speech and language, motor skills, school readiness skills, vision and hearing. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 872-4857.

**Armed Services Blood Program**

A blood drive benefitting servicemembers will be held 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 20 at the Community Center ballroom. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Cecelia Grimm at 283-8847.

**Garage Sales**

3473B Hunt Ct. in Felix Lake  
Garage sales are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

**Chapel Schedule****Weekly Bible study**

The Bible study "Life Without Strife" meets from 6:30 – 8 p.m. every Tuesday night at the Spiritual Fitness building by Chapel Two, in Room 108.

**Catholic services**

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday – Friday, Chapel Two  
Reconciliation - before Saturday Mass or by appointment  
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel Two  
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Two  
Religious Education, 11 a.m., Bldg. 1476

**Protestant services**

Traditional worship service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One  
Religious education classes, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Bldg. 1476  
Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two  
Wednesday Fellowship, 5 p.m., Chapel Two

**Jewish Passover schedule**

This year, Passover is preceded by the Sabbath which begins the evening of April 22. Passover will be observed from sundown, April 23 through sunset, May 1. The first two days, April 24 and 25, and the last two days, April 30 and May 1, are days of religious obligation for people of the Jewish faith.

Passover Seder will be 6 p.m. April 23, at Temple B'Nai Israel, 1910 Frankford Ave., Panama City. The deadline for making reservations is April 13. For more information, call Nathan Miller at Temple B'Nai Israel at 522-8625.



# Pets require seven month process to PCS overseas

STEVE RIDDLE  
325th Services Squadron publicist

When Airman Jones received orders to report overseas, he spent three months getting his family ready to move. But his dog Rover needed seven months to get ready, and now sits in quarantine until his paperwork is completed.

Due to tough animal entry laws from most foreign countries, this fictional scenario is played out all too often for real. And it usually results in either high costs to quarantine the pet – anywhere between \$1,500 to \$2,000 a month – or leaving the pet behind.

“I’ve seen it before; people having to leave their pets behind because they couldn’t take them overseas,” said Kimberly Williamson, Tyndall Veterinarian Clinic operations clerk. “It’s the saddest thing to see family members crying because they can’t take their pets with them.”

The process takes seven months to complete and starts with the pet getting a microchip and rabies shot.

“The main regulation that has changed recently is that nearly every country is now requiring that every animal be microchipped,” Ms. Williamson explained. “Every thing is done by microchip now when you go overseas. And the microchips have to be International Organization for Standardization, or ISO, compatible, which means if your pet was microchipped more than five years ago, they will probably have to have it done again.”

The microchip is about the size of a grain of rice, and is placed under the skin between the animal’s shoulder blades. The chip holds information telling who the pet’s owners are, and when the last shots were administered. The Tyndall Vet Clinic provides microchipping service by appointment for \$16, a considerable savings from local vet clinics.

“It all starts with the microchipping, and the rabies shot can be done the same day,” Ms. Williamson explained. “Then, after a 30-day wait, the animal comes back in and we draw blood for a fluorescent antibody viral neutralization test.”

The FAVN test is a process of measuring the antibodies in the blood to see if there are sufficient levels of the rabies vaccine present.

“After we draw the blood, we overnight it to the lab,” Ms. Williamson said. “Then there is a six-month waiting period. After that, the animal is brought in again, and we look to see if there are any signs of rabies. If he looks good, then the animal will get a health certificate that says he is ready to go.”

But the process isn’t over yet if the family is transferring to a base in England, one of the toughest countries to bring a pet into. England requires the pet get a worm and tick treatment 48 hours before departing for their country.

Being that most transfer orders come anywhere between four to six months, pet owners can find themselves in a real dilemma if the orders are sending them overseas. However, if a military member thinks they may be leaving the country,



Precilla, a 12-week-old English Bulldog, gets an examination from Dagny Fernandez, Tyndall’s vet technician, while Precilla’s owner, Tammy Cheke, watches.

they can get the tests done early.

“The FAVN test is good for two years, so if you think you’re going overseas anytime in the next year or so, get the tests done now,” Ms. Williamson suggested. This way, if you do get orders, you and your pets are good to go. Early planning is the best thing.”

For more information or to set up an appointment, contact the Tyndall Veterinarian Clinic at 283-2434.

## Intramural Sports Standings

### Volleyball



Team	Win	Loss
AMXS	7	0
95 FS	6	0
MXS	5	0
MDG	4	3
RHS	4	4
CONR	4	3
COMM	3	4
AFCESA	3	3
SEADS	4	3
SVS	1	4
ACS 1	2	3
53 WEG/82 TRS	1	5
TEST	1	6
ACS 2	0	7

### Soccer

Team	Win	Loss	Tie
ACS	5	0	1
OSS	4	0	1
SFS	4	2	0
MXS	2	2	0
372 TRS	3	2	0
TEST	2	3	0
CES	3	2	0
SEADS	1	4	0
83 FWS	0	5	0
COMM	1	5	0



### Squadron sports teams need support!

Volleyball games start at 6:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday and are played at the Fitness Center. Soccer games start at 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and are played at the Heritage Soccer Field.

The Fitness Center offers a wide variety of intramural sports throughout the year. For more information on how to sign up, contact your unit sports representative or call the Fitness Center at 283-2631.

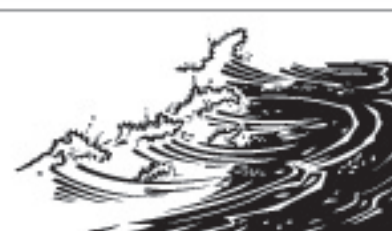


**Safe!**  
Joseph Szymanski, son of Senior Airman Paul Szymanski, 325th Contracting Squadron, slides into third base during baseball practice Tuesday at Field 1. Szymanski is on the Blue Jays, a Youth Center-sponsored baseball team for 9- and 10-year-old children. Their first home game is 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Field 1, near the Youth Center.





# Funshine NEWS



Produced by the 325th Services Squadron

www.325thservices.com

## Congratulations Services

for being selected to  
represent AETC  
in this year's

## Major General Eugene L. Eubank Services Award

The 325th Services Squadron  
was selected to represent AETC  
in the Eubank competition in  
2003, 2004, and now 2005.

These consecutive victories in  
AETC competition have earned  
the squadron an unprecedented

**"THREE-PEAT"**



All ranks at the Tyndall Enlisted Club

## Free Movie Night April 21 Pooh's Heffalump Movie Rated G Movie 6 p.m.

When the gang dismisses Roo as  
being too young to participate in a  
dangerous mission, the little kangaroo  
strikes out on his own with the goal of  
trying to capture the much-feared  
Heffalump. But when Roo meets  
young Lumpy, a new lovable character,  
the gang learns that friends can come  
in all shapes and sizes.

**Snack Bar items include**  
Pizza, hot dogs, chili dogs,  
nachos, popcorn, candy, & soda.

Youth under age 16 must be accompanied  
by an adult. Movies subject to availability.

**283-4357**

## Community Center

☎ 283-2495

### Pilates instructor

The cardio center is looking for an additional  
Pilates instructor. If you have the right  
qualifications, call 283-2495.

### Base-level table tennis tournament

April 16, 1 p.m. This event is open to active duty  
AF members, DoD civilians, contractors, family  
members & retirees. All participants must be 18  
years or older. Awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.  
Sign up by Saturday.

### Gulf Coast Salute food concession

Here's an opportunity for your squadron or private  
organization to earn some extra income. All units  
and organizations interested in participating in this  
year's open house (May 14 - 15) must fill out a  
concession application. Official military units  
assigned to Tyndall AFB will have priority. The  
number of booths available is limited. Concession  
packages are available at the Community Center,  
Bldg. 1027, Tuesday - Saturday.

### Auto detailer needed

The Community Center is looking for an auto  
detailer. For more information, contact the  
Community Center at 283-2495.

Pizza Pub in the Community Center

## NASCAR race Sunday

### Advance Auto Parts 500

Pizza Pub opens at 11:00 a.m.

Race begins at 11:30 a.m.

Races shown at the Pizza Pub.

Prizes for participation will be given at each  
event. Must be a current  
club member to win.

**283-3222 for details**

## Air Force Club Scholarship Program



Applicants must be accepted by, or  
enrolled in, an accredited college or  
university graduate or undergraduate  
program by fall of 2005. Information  
packages with complete instructions and  
requirements are available from the  
Tyndall Officers' Club.

**First place  
\$6,000**

Entry deadline  
is July 15.

There are 6 scholarships  
to be awarded to AF  
Club members or  
their eligible family  
members.

**283-4357**  
for more information

Sponsored in part by:

CHASE and MasterCard.  
No federal endorsement of sponsor intended.

## Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

## Shito-Ryu Karate Lessons

Sign up for Shito-Ryu Karate lessons.  
Learn the ancient art of self-defense in a safe  
and fun atmosphere.  
Classes are open to ages six to adult. Cost is  
\$25 a month for ages 6 - 18, and \$35 a month  
for ages 19 and over.  
Classes will be held in the Tyndall Youth Center  
gymnasium every Tuesday and Thursday.  
Classes are from 5 to 5:50 p.m. for ages  
6 - 12, and 6 to 6:50 p.m. for ages 13 and  
up.

**Come out and try a class  
before you pay!**

**No uniform required!**

Call 283-4366  
for more information.



## Travel Expedition 2005

INFORMATION, TICKETS & TRAVEL  
APRIL 15, 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
AT THE TYNDALL ENLISTED CLUB

**More than  
\$7,000 in  
door prizes!  
Lots of freebies!  
More than  
80 vendors!**



## Play Texas Hold 'Em !

All ranks at the Tyndall Enlisted Club  
Sign-ups start at 6 p.m. - Play starts at 7 p.m.

Play every Saturday for seven weeks.

Grand championship April 16

\$15 per player per week includes food and fountain drinks.

Top three nightly winners awarded prizes.

Nightly winner has chance to draw a "Royal Flush" and win a new car.

Two vehicles to choose from:

**Nissan 2005 Altima - 2005 Frontier**

Sign up at the door.

**Call 283-4357**

Must be an active USAF Club member.

Sponsored in part by  
Lloyd



No federal endorsement of sponsor intended



# Airman beats competition; 'snare' spot in Tops in Blue

MASTER SGT. MARY McHALE

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

He was on leave when his commander called him. Something was wrong with his leave paperwork.

Senior Airman Robert Washington Jr., a driver operator with the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron's fire department, became understandably concerned, until he found out the leave error was a ruse. His commander, Lt. Col. Curt Van De Walle, was actually calling Airman Washington to tell him he'd been selected to be a member of Tops in Blue.

"The only person they'll talk to is your commander," said Airman Washington, a drummer. "The colonel told me they said I made a really good impression and I'd made the team. I was really excited and relieved to hear I'd made it."

After he received permission to apply for the program from squadron supervision, he began the process that included sending a videotape to Lackland AFB, Texas, the troupe's headquarters. After its review, he was invited for an audition at Lackland, March 6 - 15 for further evaluation.

"They evaluate you on the whole person concept, not just your specialty," he said. "During that time there, you truly grow as a person and performer, the informa-

tion and experience is invaluable."

Along with the video, he also had to fill out an information packet and note all past entertainment experience. Airman Washington said he's been playing drums since he was six years old. Since then, he's played at levels from high school band to clubs.

"I like a variety of music but jazz is my favorite," he said. "I'm kind of getting into Latin music now. I go through phases, I'll like one kind of style then get tired of it and move on to the next. It's an evolving process."

The three-year Air Force veteran said he enjoys the feeling of freedom playing the drums allows him, and it also provides an outlet for stress, almost like a "cardio workout," as he described it.

Once officially notified, the senior airman had little time to prepare for his departure tomorrow to Lackland for his year-long tour with the Air Force performance team.

"They warn you that things move quick if you're selected, you don't have a lot of time to get your affairs in order," he said.

When Airman Washington gets to Lackland, he'll go through a training period that lasts approximately two months.

"It's called staging," he said. "Some call it shedding. From what I understand, it's very involved, very high-energy and lots of early mornings and late nights."



Master Sgt. Mary McHale

**Senior Airman Robert Washington Jr., 325th Civil Engineer Squadron, will be playing drums for the next year with Tops in Blue.**

Airman Washington added this is the time the performers learn the show and how to work as a team. He said instructors there can be active duty military or civilian and most are prior TIB performers.

"They try and cater the show around the talent they've chosen," Airman Washington said. "I'm excited to get there. I can't wait to see the team members I auditioned with."

But while he's excited, he also knows it's going to be a challenging time, with lots of late hours and plenty of repetition as he and his troupe mates work to perfect their performance.

"There's a lot of discipline involved. You may have your part down but it's a whole team effort, the goal is to get the whole show down."



**Think  
before  
you  
drink.**

# PERSCO offers Airmen friendly face

STAFF SGT. CARISSA LEE  
506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

**KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq** — After a days-long trip to the area of responsibility, one of the first faces Airmen see when they arrive is that of a member of the personnel support for contingency operations team.

PERSCO members are the first to arrive during each aerospace expeditionary force rotation, in order to prepare for the huge influx of personnel rotating in and out of Kirkuk, said unit officials.

“Our folks are on call 24 hours a day during the beginning of the rotation,” said Capt. Benita Arceneaux, PERSCO team chief. “They often are required to meet aircraft that arrive in the middle of the night to give the incoming Airmen their initial briefing.”

While PERSCO’s mission has several facets, the team’s primary mission is to ensure 100 percent accountability of Air Force troops arriving and departing the base, something Master Sgt. Shelly Kisselovich, PERSCO NCO in charge, said is the most enjoyable part of her job here.

“It’s nice to be the first face people see when they arrive at Kirkuk,” she said. “A lot of people have never deployed before and may feel unsure of what they are required to do. It’s a pleasure to be the one to welcome them and set them on the right path for their deployment.”

In addition to strength accountability, the team is also responsible for casualty reporting and for providing personnel support to commanders. Although they can not provide all the services of a regular Air Force personnel shop, they are able to assist Airmen with re-enlistments, retraining, promotions and decorations, among other items.

One program the PERSCO team recently put together, is the PROUD briefings, said Captain Arceneaux. The PROUD, or People Reaching Out Understanding Deployment, briefings are now mandatory for all airmen basic though senior airmen, to help prevent some of the problems that often arise for new Airmen on their first deployment, Captain Arceneaux said.

The program was brought about to inform Airmen of the regulations and restrictions in place while they are at Kirkuk.



Master Sgt. Ed Best

**Capt. Benita Arceneaux, 325th Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight commander, reads poetry during a People Reaching Out Understanding Deployments program poetry night at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.**

It is also a stepping-stone for Airmen to become involved in the base’s mentoring program, the captain said. So far, the program has proven to be a success, she added.

“Many of the Airmen told me they really enjoyed the PROUD briefing and program,” she said. “We tried to make it different from the other briefings they get when they in-process here. We try to make it more personal.”

A testament to the personal touch of the program was brought to the captain’s attention by one Airman who attended the briefing recently.

“She told me she thought the briefing was put together with a lot of heart, and that it was one of the best she had attended,” Captain Arceneaux said. “But really, that’s what the Kirkuk PERSCO team is all about — providing 100 percent customer satisfaction to every Airman while they are deployed here and I think we do an excellent job of that.”



# Tyndall Airman convicted of cocaine use

**CAPT. ROBERT CARIDAD**  
Base Legal Office

A Tyndall Airman was recently convicted of wrongful use of cocaine, in violation of Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

In a special court-martial held March 30 here, Airman 1st Class Charles Izett, 325th Maintenance Squadron, pled guilty before a military judge. He confessed to smoking a cigarette he knew to be laced with cocaine while on leave in Tampa, Fla. in September 2004.

After reviewing documentary evidence and hearing arguments from the government and the defense counsel, a panel of officer members returned a sentence of four months in military confinement, reduction to airman basic, forfeiture of \$800 pay per month for four months and two months restriction to base.

In addition to serving time in jail, Airman Izett, who has been on station for less than one year, will have to report a federal conviction for the rest of his life. Such a punish-

ment can adversely impact future civilian employment opportunities and may even prevent him from exercising his right to vote.

“It’s really disappointing to see one of our own face jail time,” said Capt. Rosemary Gilliam, assistant trial counsel in the case. “We all know that drug use and military service don’t mix. This whole situation really shows how important it is to remember that, unlike other jobs, we don’t leave our responsibilities behind when we’re on leave.”

## ARTICLE 15s



The following adverse actions took place at Tyndall Air Force Base in March 2005:

### Articles 15

- An airman basic received 14 days extra duty and a reprimand for absence from his place of duty and making a false official statement.
- An airman first class received a reduction to airman with a suspended reduction to airman basic, forfeitures of \$50 pay per month for two months, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand for negligently failing to possess a driver’s license while operating a vehicle and driving under the influence of alcohol.
- An airman first class received a reduction to airman, suspended forfeitures of \$692 for two months and 30 days extra duty for being absent without leave for more than three days and making a false official statement.
- An airman first class received a reduction to airman and forfeitures of \$323 for underage possession of alcohol and attempted indecent assault.

# Family housing residents gear up for clean-up week

Family housing Clean-Up Week begins tomorrow and lasts until April 16.

The Housing Office will host a landscape improvement workshop tomorrow with Ken Rudisill, a Bay County horticulturist/landscaper. The workshop will be conducted from 8 - 10 a.m. at 3741 Hunt Ct. in Felix Lake housing and from 10 a.m. to noon at 3116B Dagger Dr. in Wood Manor housing.

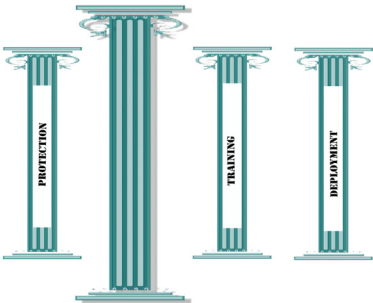
Mr. Rudisill will discuss lawn preparation for planting grass seed, the best types of plants and shrubs to plant and general lawn maintenance.

Residents who pre-ordered plants and shrubs from the Self-Help Store have until tomorrow to pick them up. If the plants are not picked up, they will be given away at a first-come basis to walk-in occupants beginning tomorrow. Each housing unit is limited to \$20 in plants.

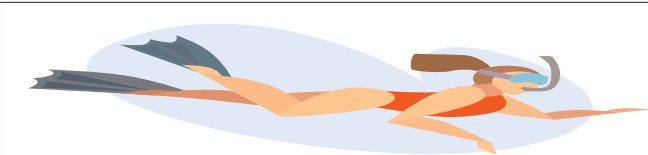
During Clean-Up Week, housing residents are encouraged to clean up the exterior of their homes and yards. Residents should concentrate on the following items around their homes:

- Remove grass from sidewalk and driveway joints, flower gardens, around shrubs and along fences
- Remove grass and weeds from sidewalk, walkways and flowerbeds
- Mow yards and edge grass along building foundations, sidewalks, driveways and curbs
- Trim hedges and shrubs to window sill height
- Trim new shoots at the base of tree trunks and trim tree limbs
- Clean up clutter on patios, carports, and yard and repair chain link fences
- Pick up trash and newspapers

## FORCE SUSTAINMENT



- from yard and street
- Remove oil stains from driveway and carports
  - Sweep down dust, dirt and cobwebs from exterior walls
  - Place bulk item curb side during your regular trash pick-up date
- Housing residents should contact the Housing Office at 283-8141 with any questions about cleaning. A housing representative will be available during this week to provide information at member's homes.
- (Courtesy of the Housing Office)*



Every member of Team Tyndall is valuable. Play it safe, don't become a statistic.



# SAME honors AFCESA member with national engineering medal

MASTER SGT. MICHAEL WARD  
AFCESA Public Affairs

Col. Joe Worrell, director of the Engineering Support Directorate of the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency here, was selected by the Society of American Military Engineers to receive the society’s President’s Medal.

The medal is presented to a SAME member for outstanding leadership and accomplishment in support of the society’s programs. A maximum of three people are chosen each year. This is the first year a member of the Panama City chapter of SAME has been chosen since the award’s inception in 1992. The medal will be presented May 19 at SAME’s National Education and Training Conference in Louisville, Ky.

Colonel Worrell has been a SAME Life member since 1986. He served as the president of the Panama City Post from 2003-2004 and is currently a director of the Panama City Post. The colonel is also the South Central Regional Vice President overseeing nine SAME posts in the region and serves on the SAME National’s Executive Council.

Even with the additional duties of RVP and Executive Council, the Post earned five of seven National Steamers and Distinguished Post that year. His most notable contribution to the Society was the planning and execution of SAME’s inaugural Joint Senior NCO Symposium on Engineers in Contingency Operations April 20-22, 2004 here. The symposium was sponsored by SAME and the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency.

Colonel Worrell has been selected for investiture into the Society’s Academy of Fellows for 2005.

He received his undergraduate degree in building construction from the University of Florida in 1979. He holds a master’s degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma and master’s degree in strategic studies from Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

As director of the Engineering Support Directorate, he has oversight responsibility for providing technical assistance for design, construction, operations and maintenance of facilities and infrastructure throughout the Air Force. Additionally, he is responsible for energy reduction efforts, utility rate negotiations and the Air Force airfield pavement evaluation team that provides structural and capacity analysis for peacetime and contingency operations.

The Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency provides a wide variety of technical, logistical and professional support to Air Force Civil Engineers worldwide.



Col. Joe Worrell

## March reenlistments

Senior Airman Adebayo Adetolu, 325th AMXS  
Senior Master Sgt. Randy Allison, 325th AMXS  
Senior Master Sgt. Charles Atwood, 1st AF  
Staff Sgt. Joseph Basom, 325th AMXS  
Senior Airman Jason Booth, 325th AMXS  
Master Sgt. Douglas Broglen 325th MOS  
Senior Airman Blake Bruton, 325th AMXS  
Senior Airman Rebecca Carey, 325th ADS  
Staff Sgt. James Caruso, 325th MXS  
Senior Airman Chad Christiansen, 325th AMXS  
Senior Airman William Coarsey, 325th AMXS  
Senior Airman Pierre Delgado, 325th SFS  
Senior Master Sgt. John Fields, 325th CS  
Tech. Sgt. Dean Gracey, 325th OSS  
Senior Airman Andre Grant, 325th OSS  
Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Gress, 823rd RHS  
Senior Airman Ryan Hobbs, 325th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Reuben Jones, 325th ACS  
Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kahapea, 325th MSS  
Staff Sgt. Armando Llamas, 325th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Temesha Madison, 325th MSG

Master Sgt. Lorrenzzo Martin, 325th MSS  
Tech. Sgt. Joel McWilliams, 325th MXS  
Staff Sgt. Johnathan Meyer, 325th AMXS  
Master Sgt. Mark Mitchell, TNCOA  
Senior Airman Philip Morris, 325th CES  
Tech. Sgt. John Morrow, 325th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Kurt Nielsen, 325th MOS  
Staff Sgt. Brandi Norman, 325th MXS  
Tech. Sgt. Sharon Randall, 325th SFS  
Staff Sgt. Meshekka Rockman, 325th SFS  
Tech. Sgt. Leighton Sinclair, 325th AMXS  
Tech. Sgt. Joseph Skinner, 325th AMXS  
Tech. Sgt. Eric Spargo, 325th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Kirk Smith, 325th AMXS  
Staff Sgt. Scot Thorpe, 325th MXS  
Senior Airman Christina Tripi, 325th MDG  
Master Sgt. Terry Walters, 325th MOS  
Senior Airman Shaun Wilson, 325th AMXS  
Senior Airman Danielle Wofford, 325th MDG  
Tech. Sgt. David Wolfenbarger, 325th MOS

● **FROM RAPCON PAGE 11**

fied to work in all 14 RAPCON positions, which takes an additional year.

Officer students, on the other hand, only train for about 10 months and get certified in two positions to gain a working knowledge of RAPCON operations.

“Officers don’t train as long as the enlisted students, who train to actually control aircraft, because they are working toward becoming airfield operations officers rather than approach controllers,” Sergeant Enander said. “Once their training is complete, they’ll oversee RAPCON and control tower operations as well as airfield management operations.”

But the training is not easy for either enlisted or officers, said 2nd Lt. Tony Fantozzi, 325th OSS airfield operations officer student.

“I knew the training would be difficult,” he said. “There’s only so much airspace out there and, opposed to the tower, which only has to deal with a smaller section of space and a limited number of aircraft, the RAPCON is responsible for a much larger area and many more aircraft.

“Training in the simulators is important,” he added. “If you don’t get the training up front, you’ll get overwhelmed on the floor.”

Throughout the training for both enlisted and officers, though, they have comfort in knowing they are not alone. In fact once they move to the floor to begin training under live conditions, flow controllers, or senior experienced controllers, are paired with them to assist and watch over everything they do.

But, Lieutenant Fantozzi said the challenge isn’t in controlling aircraft, rather having the will to try again if you’ve made a mistake.

“If you have a rough day and make some mistakes, it’s hard to get your head back in the game and want to go back to try again,” he said. “The important thing to remember is that the academics and book knowledge will eventually come, and it just takes persistence to keep on going no matter what.

“I have one week left in front load training, then I’ll spend three months working live traffic on the floor so I can get certified. I’m really looking forward to it.”



Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

**Well-deserved lunch**

**Second Lt. Gerrit Dalman, left, 325th Air Control Squadron, chats with 1st Lt. Brian Frederick, 325th ACS, as they have lunch with their families at the Tyndall Marina Club Wednesday. The lieutenants were students with air battle manager Class 05009, who graduated Wednesday.**



